

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5        Ball bats and methods of making the same are disclosed whereby  
the handle and barrel members are separate structural components, and  
whereby the handle member is of sufficient length to extend through the  
hollow barrel member. The handle member may thus be connected to the  
barrel member at its proximal and distal ends. Preferably, the connection  
10        between the handle member at the proximal end of the barrel member is  
by means of an elastomeric connector. The connection between the  
handle member and the distal end of the barrel member is most preferably  
accomplished by means of embedding the terminal end of the handle  
member in an elastomeric barrel end plug which is connected to and  
closes the distal end of the barrel member. Such structure allows the  
15        handle member to be a substantially constant diameter along the entirety  
of its length, thereby improving its flexural response.